

Basic data

27th March 1990 is the date of establishment of the Šumava Biosphere Reserve (BR) by UNESCO

1670 km² is the area of the biosphere reserve itself (BR), another **800 km²** are made up of the cadastral areas of the villages outside the BR which are directly linked to it

30 thousand inhabitants live in the BR and on its border

40 thousand inhabitants live outside the BR in close contact with its territory

70 thousand inhabitants live in 55 villages and the military training area of Boletice within the wider area of the BR covering 2 450 km²

18 inhabitants / km² is an average population density inside the BR

50 inhabitants / km² is an average population density in the area adjoining the BR from outside

28 inhabitants/ km² is an average population density in the wider area of the BR as a whole

for comparison **133 inhabitants/ km²** is an average population density in the Czech Republic

Joint management

The Šumava BR management is based on local partnership. The Šumava Regional Development Agency www.rras.cz is one of the two partners coordinating the activities of the Šumava BR. Its seat is in the town of Stachy and it concentrates on supporting local development, above all that of tourism, and on respective educational activities.

The Management of the Šumava National Park www.npsumava.cz is the partner being responsible for nature conservation and for respective scientific research and ecological education. There are also villages of the Šumava region being involved as partners in all the activities inside the biosphere reserve and in the immediate neighbourhood.

Together also across the borders

The most natural cross-border partner of the Šumava Biosphere Reserve is the Management of Bavarian Forest Nature Park (Naturpark Bayerischer Wald) www.naturpark-bayer-wald.de seated in Zwiesel whose activities promote the sustainable way of life in the vast area of the Bavarian Forest foothills.

Within the project of the Šumava Biosphere Reserve the management of the Bavarian Forest National Park (Nationalpark Bayerischer Wald) <http://www.nationalpark-bayerischer-wald.de> represents above all a cross-border partner of the Šumava National Park which shares common responsibility for natural heritage preservation in the common area of the Šumava region.

We are not alone

Since 1970 biosphere reserves have been established by UNESCO – an organization of the United Nations for education, science and culture within MaB programme (Man and biosphere) all over the world. Its aim is the establishment of worldwide network of sites representing the earth's main ecosystems where genetic resources should be conserved and where these ecosystems could be investigated at the same time. These sites of the worldwide network were given the name „biosphere reserves“ and the term biosphere has become a common part of the vocabulary of natural scientists, sociologists and also that of politicians. Of great importance is the role we, people, play in biosphere reserves. There have 631 sites in 119 countries of the world been involved in this programme at the time of the publication of this leaflet.

There are six of us in the Czech Republic



In our country there have 6 biosphere reserves been established so far, those of the Křivoklát region (1977), Třeboň (1977), the Šumava region (1990), The Giant Mountains (1992), The White Carpathians (1996) and the Dolní Morava region (2003). Each of them is unique in some way. The whole of the Czech system is organized and coordinated by the Czech National MaB Committee.



Biosphere Reserve
Šumava
A good place to live

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Fotos: Vladislav Hošek
Graphics: Kolář & Kutálek – graphic studio
Printed by: Dragon Press s.r.o., Klatovy
Stachy 2015



EVROPSKÁ UNIE / EUROPEISCHE UNION
EVROPSKÝ FOND PRO REGIONÁLNÍ ROZVOJ /
EUROPAISCHER FOND FÜR REGIONALE ENTWICKLUNG
INVESTICE DO VAŠÍ BUDOUCNOSTI / INVESTITION IN IHRE ZUKUNFT

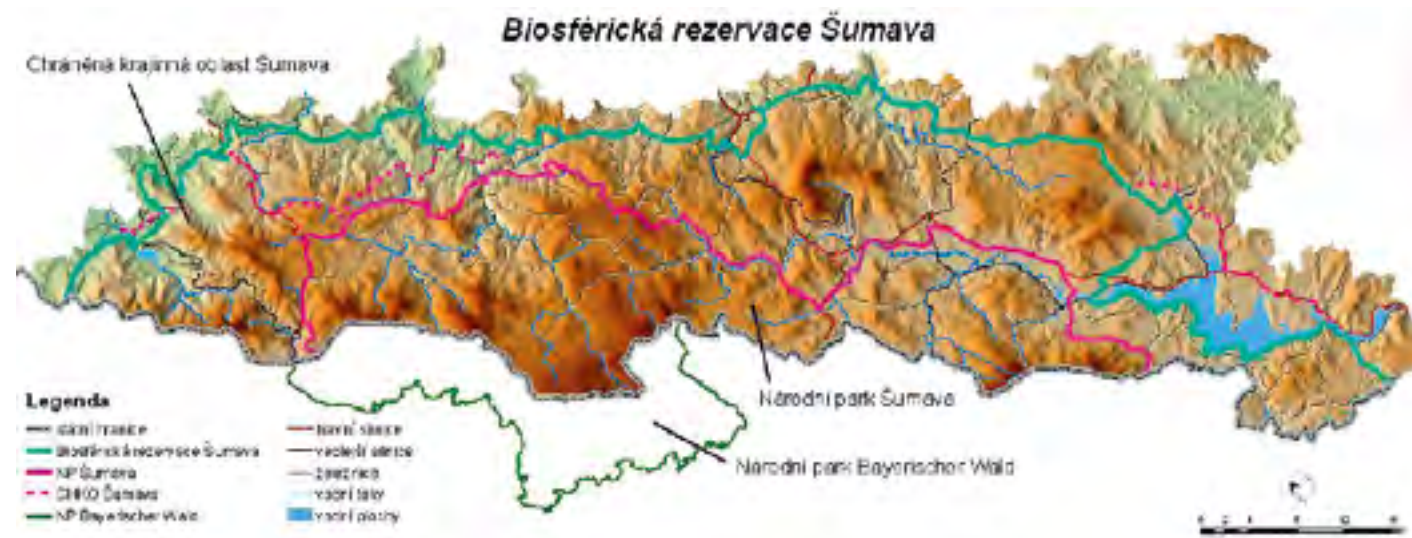


www.br-sumava.cz

Welcome to the Šumava Biosphere Reserve

where the things we need most to live are still close, so to say „at hand“. Spring water, breathable air, early morning mists which are still mists and not smog, quiet sunsets, simply nature with everything that it can offer to us. Wild nature of the national park in apparent contrast to the picturesque character of the Šumava foothills, a sea of trees up there in the Plains and also herds of cows grazing along the foothill slopes are here with us. Or maybe we and them?

The Šumava Biosphere Reserve offers a wider insight into the life in the Šumava region in all its forms to all of us. Only then can we become aware of the fact how vast our Šumava region is and how friendly it is when surrendering to our activities of varied character. Welcome to the countryside which desires to be a good place to live.



Why this particular region of Šumava

The Šumava Biosphere Reserve has been established to protect forests, meadows, lakes and rivers under typical conditions of European Highlands.

Today we say in one breath –

„and to preserve local culture and traditions“.

The same as the other biosphere reserves of the world it fulfils three basic functions:

- conservation of natural and cultural diversity
- support to social, cultural and environmentally sustainable economic development
- logistic support to research, monitoring, environmental upbringing and education.

Of special importance is the involvement of local inhabitants and their participation in landscape management of the biosphere reserve. The local farmer is irreplaceable for the conservation of natural diversity, the current European system of natural diversity conservation NATURA 2000 is entirely based on this fact.

No fear of zoning

The biosphere reserve is divided into three zones:

- core zone – is meant for nature protection
- buffer zone – for ecologically acceptable activities
- transition zone – for sustainable use of natural resources.

Only the core area requires special legal protection.

In the Šumava region this core zone nearly ideally overlaps the previously established protected areas – those of the National Park and the Protected Landscape Area.